

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07
L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02
USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ARA-06 IO-13 /101 W
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R 241309Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2411
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6967
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USCINCEUR
USDOCSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1674

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XF, XA
SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING (NAC): MARCH 23, 1977

REF: (A) STATE 64043 (DTG 230106Z MAR 77) (NOTAL),
(B) STATE 63648 (DTG 222251Z MAR 77) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING MARCH 23 NAC REVIEW OF EXPERTS' REPORTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA: A) ITALIAN PERMREP REPORT ON ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S MARCH MIDDLE EAST TRIP WHERE HE FOUND MORE ARAB FLEXIBILITY IN PRIVATE THAN IN PUBLIC; B) THE FRENCH PERMREP TOLD OF THE PROMISING RESULTS OF THE RECENT MEETING IN PARIS OF THE LEADERS OF THE FRENCH

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TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI); C) THE UK AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT LONDON DOES NOT BELIEVE THE TIME IS RIPE FOR A FURTHER UK INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA; ANDD) THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE. SYG LUNS MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ANALYSES OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CASTRO AND PODGORNY VISITS TO AFRICA. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE TIMELY ANALYSES OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE VISITS WHICH WE

MIGHT SHARE WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS
ANSWERS BY MARCH 30 TO QUESTIONS POSED TO AMBASSADOR AND
NOTED IN PARAS 2 AND 6 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING POINTS OF NOTE EMERGED FROM
THE MARCH 23 NAC DISCUSSIONS:

THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS - TINE
(FRANCE) REPORTED ON THE TALKS WHICH CONCLUDED
IN PARIS ON MARCH 19 BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL FORCES IN THE
FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI), WHERE
ALMOST ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND FORCES IN
THE TFAI WERE REPRESSENTEED. FRANCE ATTEMPTED TO
UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF A POLICY OF
RECONCILIATION. TINE SAID THAT AS A RESULTOF
THE TALKS(A) A REFERENDUM ON SELF-DETERMINATION
WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 8; AND (B) ELECTIONS WILL
ALSO BE HELD, WITH INDEPENDENCE BEING GRANTED
ON JUNE 27. THE QUESTION OF A REFERENDUM
CAUSED NO PROBLEMS DURING THE PARIS TALKS, BUT
THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION REGARDING
ELECTIONS. SOME OF THE TFAI PARTIES WERE
TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ELECTIONS. TINE SAID A HYGRID
SOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AND ELECTIONS WILL DEFINITELY
TAKE PLACE. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRENCH

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MINISTRIES OF COOPERATION AND DEFENSE WILL NO
TO DJIBOUTI TO PREPARE AGREEMENTS ON CONTINUED
COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND AN INDEPENDENT TFAI.
THOSE TFAI LEADERS PRESENT IN PARIS
DESIRED A CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FRENCH
TROOPS WILL REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY. TINE
CHARACTERIZED THE RESULTS OF THE PARIS DISCUSSIONS
AS PROMISING AND SAID THAT PARIS BELIEVES THE
LEADERS OF THE TFAI DESIRE TO SET UP A TRULY
INDEPENDENT STATE. SYG LUNS COMMENTED THAT HE
PERSONALLY HOPES A STRONG FRENCH PRESENCE CAN
BE MAINTAINED ONCE THE TERRITORY HAS BECOME
INDEPENDENT.

2. THE USSR AND CUBA IN AFRICA -COMMENTING
THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A SERIOUS
EVALUATION OF THE CASTRO AND PODGORNY VISITS
TO AFRICA, KILICK (UK) NOTED THAT CASTRO IS
BEING CAREFUL TO AVOID SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF
PRACTICAL SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRIES HE IS VISIT-
ING. KILICK ESTIMATED THAT THE POLICY OF THE
USSR IN AFRICA WILL BE OPPORTUNISTIC BUT
CAUTIOUS. THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT YET AT HOME
ON THE CONTINENT, BUT IT WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE

TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDIBILITY IF GUERRILLA
LEADERS TURN TO MOSCOW DEMANDING SUPPORT.
TINE NOTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS
REPORTEDLY DELIVERED SMALL ARMS AND ANTI-
AIRCRAFT EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIAN FORCES IN
RECENT MONTHS. FRANCE BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIET
UNION MIGHT MORE EASILY PLAY A ROLE IN ETHIOPIA
THAN IN SOMALIA. WITH REGARD TO ETHIOPIA,
CATALANO(ITALY) ASKED ABOUT THE US REACTION
TO A GROWING REAPPROACHEMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND

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THE USSR. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE
AN ANALYSIS RESPONSIVE TO CATALANO'S INQUIRY
THAT WE MIGHT SHARE WITH THE OTHER ALLIES.

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA - ON SOUTHERN AFRICA,
KILICK SAID THE UK CONTINUES TO BASE ITS
SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT
PEACEFUL CHANGE IS POSSIBLE. THE UK HAS NOT
ABANDONED THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT IN
RHODESIA. KILICK ASSURED THE
PERMREPS THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A
BILATERAL DEAL BETWEEN THE UK AND SOUTH AFRICA
WHICH WOULD GO BEHIND THE BACKS OF "THE PEOPLE
ON THE GROUND." HE SAID THAT LONDON REMAINS
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SKEPTICAL ABOUT SMITH'S INTENTIONS AND DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SMITH'S PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL BEAR FRUIT. FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT FEEL THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR A FURTHER UK INITIATIVE AS SUCH; AND HE WILL LIMIT HIS MID-APRIL TRIP TO GAINING A FIRST-HAND APPRAISAL OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. KILLICK SAID THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT OWEN WILL MEET WITH SMITH IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE COURSE OF THAT TRIP. THEN THE UK WILL TALK WITH THE US ABOUT NEXT STEPS IN RHODESIA.

4. ZAIRE - THE AMBASSADOR DREW UPON THE TALKING POINTS IN REF A, AND PROVIDED THE PERMREPS WITH THE ESSENCE OF STATE 64155 (DTG 230139Z MAR 77) (BOTH NOTAL).

5. FORLANI'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST - CATALANO REPORTED ON THE MID-MARCH VISIT OF ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI TO EGYPT, SYRIA AND LEBANON. IN CAIRO, SADAT HAD EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF THE US ATTITUDE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS. SADAT SEEMED WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT TRUSTS THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT CARTER'S EXPLANATION OF WHAT HE MEANT BY "DEFINISBLE BORDERS" HAD COMPLETELY REASSURED "THE ARABS. SADAT ALSO TOLD FORLANI THAT THE EC COUNTRIES HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH THE PRESSURE THEY CAN EXERT ON ISRAEL. IN DAMASCUS, WHERE HE MET WITH ASSAD AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM, FORLANI TRIED TO TEST THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE ARAB POSITION ON A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE URGED THAT THE ARABS NOT CONSIDER ALL COUNTERPROPOSALS AS ABSOLUTE. CATALANO REPORTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PUBLIC
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REPORTING ON FORLANI'S MEETINGS REFLECTED ONLY A REPETITION OF WELL-KNOWN ARAB POSITIONS, THESE STATIC POSITIONS WERE BALANCED BY SOME FLEXIBILITY AND "A CERTAIN OPTIMISM" DURING THE COURSE OF PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS. ASSAD, LIKE SADAT, CONFIRMED A DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARD PEACE FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS. KHADDAM STRESSED TO FORLANI THE NEED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. PRESIDENT SARKIS OF LEBANON URGED FORLANI TO REPRESS THE EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES. SARKIS HAD NOTED THAT SINCE 1973 THERE HAS BEEN MORE

REALISM SHOWN BY BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS,
AND THAT TIME IS NOT ON ISRAEL'S SIDE. A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
DEPENDS ON THE US AND THE USSR. THEY SHOULD PUSH THE PARTIES TO
GENEVA.

6. THE USSR, THE US AND THE MIDDLE EAST - KILICK
SAID THAT LONDON BELIEVES BREZHNEV'S STATE-
MENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE NOT SEEMED
NEGATIVE. THE SOVIET UNION APPEARS TO BE OPEN
TO NEW IDEAS. KILICK THEN INQUIRED WHETHER
PRESIDENT CARTER ENVISAGES THAT DEFENSE AND
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BEYOND ISRAEL'S BOUNDARIES
WOULD BE INTERIM OR PERMANENT IN NATURE.
ACTION REQUESTED: WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS
NOT A QUESTION WHICH CAN READILY BE ANSWERED
AT THIS STAGE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE
AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT USEFULLY SAY IN RESPONSE.

7. INDIA - KILICK COMMENTED "TENTATIVELY AND
PROVISIONALLY" THAT THE INDIAN ELECTION
RESULTS WOULD BRING A CHANGE IN EMPHASIS
RATHER THAN DIRECTION IN INDIAN FOREIGN
POLICY. THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT DISTANCING
FROM MOSCOW, AND RELATIONS WITH THE WEST CAN
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BE EXPECTED TO BE SOMEWHAT WARMER. LUNS
INTERJECTED THAT THE USSR OBVIOUSLY WILL BE
DISCOURAGED BY THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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